

UNCLASSIFIED 3/15/76

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM Amembassy BUENOS AIRES CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED] ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

I.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, AR
SUBJECT: Terrorist Activities Continue at High LevelU.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () DenyACTION: Secstate WASHDC
[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 1791Exemption(s):
Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on ReasonAMB
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP-2
SCIAT
LEGAT
RF
CHRON

1. Summary: Against a background of increased public discussion depredations re an imminent military golpe, terrorist ~~assassinations~~ in recent days have added to a mood of heightened anxiety among the general populace. End Summary.

2. The kidnappings in Cordoba, which have run at an ~~extraordinary~~ extraordinary ~~unbelievable~~ rate in past month, continue unabated. In addition to the fifty plus victims reported in the press in last month, there are indications that many more cases have gone unreported. This, along with the bombings, shootings, and economic unrest in the province, have left the populace badly frightened and angry. Bombings, murders and kidnappings have also taken place in the last few days in Salta, Jujuy, Tucuman, etc., spreading mood of anxiety throughout country.

3. In the Federal Capital, in addition to the bombing of Army headquarters which killed one person and wounded twenty-eight, terrorists have in last 48 hours set off over twenty bombs and

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A/DCM:WBeal [Signature]

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carried out several attacks against policemen and property.

A number of policemen in the Federal Capital, one in Mar del Plata, and one in La Plata, were killed in these acts. In the Barrio Norte-Palermo area of the Fed Capital, well over twenty bombs exploded on night of Mar 16. Several American companies have reported receiving threatening calls and letters during past few days, mostly from Montoneros.

4. Leftist terrorists have taken responsibility for the majority of these acts though one of policemen killed was guarding Jesus Porto, a Peronist Congressman whose name is on the AAA's death list. Both publicly and privately, Argentines tend to see these actions as terrorist attempt to push military into final decision to carry out a coup. As one paper, La Opinion, put it, any organized society is vulnerable to terrorist acts. What is distressing about Argentine case is that the vulnerability extends far beyond the lives and property of those directly involved and given fragility of present institutional structure, these otherwise pointless acts may succeed.

5. While leftist terrorists are carrying out operations at an almost unprecedented level, one sign of internal strain surfaced this week. Apparently realizing that several recent police raids had resulted from info received from jailed Montonero leader Roberto Quieto, the Montoneros issued statement

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"sentencing" Quieto to death for having sold out to
police.

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